

REMARKS

Following entry of the current amendment, claims 1-12, 15, and 17 are pending. Claims 13, 14, 16, and 18-20 are cancelled. Claim 21 is withdrawn from consideration as being drawn to a non-elected invention. Claims 1 and 21 are amended to focus on particular embodiments of the invention and to add clarity. Support for the amendment may be found in the specification as originally filed (see, for example, page 4 lines 23-25 and claim 14 as originally filed; and page 3 lines 14-27 and claims 20-21 as originally filed).

The Office Action states that claims 1-10, 12, 15, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection. However, to further prosecution, Applicants amend claim 1 to add clarity. Claims 2-10, 12, 15, and 17 depend from claim 1. In light of the amendment, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection.

In a prior response, Applicants traversed the restriction requirement, for lack of unity of invention, among Group I claims 1-15 and 17; and Group II claims 20-21. Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's comments regarding unity of invention in the Office Action mailed June 13, 2006. However, in light of the claims as amended, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the restriction requirement for lack of unity of invention among Groups I and II, and examination of claim 21.

Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner has not yet considered the references that are crossed out in the IDS filed 12/17/04. Applicants submit herewith copies of the crossed out references and respectfully request consideration of such references by the Examiner.

Applicants believe the present claims are in condition for allowance and such action is respectfully requested. Applicants believe that no fees are due in connection with the filing of this paper other than those specifically authorized herewith.

Should any other fees be deemed necessary to effect the timely filing of this paper, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1392. If the Examiner has any outstanding issues with the pending claims, she is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at (919) 483-6334 for expeditious handling.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'JL Fox', written over a horizontal line.

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